

formation regarding the activities of the Secretary relating to anti-competitive activities, fraud, nonprocurement debarment, and any waiver granted by the Secretary under this section.

SEC. 26. ²⁶⁻¹ **[42 U.S.C. 1769g] INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a nongovernmental organization described in subsection (b) to establish and maintain a clearinghouse to provide information to nongovernmental groups located throughout the United States that assist low-income individuals or communities regarding food assistance, self-help activities to aid individuals in becoming self-reliant, and other activities that empower low-income individuals or communities to improve the lives of low-income individuals and reduce reliance on Federal, State, or local governmental agencies for food or other assistance.

(b) **NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.**—The nongovernmental organization referred to in subsection (a) shall be selected on a competitive basis and shall—

(1) be experienced in the gathering of first-hand information in all the States through onsite visits to grassroots organizations in each State that fight hunger and poverty or that assist individuals in becoming self-reliant;

(2) be experienced in the establishment of a clearinghouse similar to the clearinghouse described in subsection (a);

(3) agree to contribute in-kind resources towards the establishment and maintenance of the clearinghouse and agree to provide clearinghouse information, free of charge, to the Secretary, States, counties, cities, antihunger groups, and grassroots organizations that assist individuals in becoming self-sufficient and self-reliant;

(4) be sponsored by an organization, or be an organization, that—

(A) has helped combat hunger for at least 10 years;

(B) is committed to reinvesting in the United States;

and

(C) is knowledgeable regarding Federal nutrition programs;

(5) be experienced in communicating the purpose of the clearinghouse through the media, including the radio and print media, and be able to provide access to the clearinghouse information through computer or telecommunications technology, as well as through the mails; and

(6) be able to provide examples, advice, and guidance to States, counties, cities, communities, antihunger groups, and local organizations regarding means of assisting individuals and communities to reduce reliance on government programs, reduce hunger, improve nutrition, and otherwise assist low-income individuals and communities become more self-sufficient.

(c) **AUDITS.**—The Secretary shall establish fair and reasonable auditing procedures regarding the expenditures of funds to carry out this section.

(d) **FUNDING.**—Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Secretary to provide to the organization selected under this section, to establish and maintain the information clearinghouse, \$200,000

²⁶⁻¹ Section 26 added by section 123 of P.L. 103-448, 108 Stat. 4731, Nov. 2, 1994.

for each of fiscal years 1995 and 1996, \$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$100,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004, and \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.²⁶⁻² The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.²⁶⁻³

SEC. 27.²⁷⁻¹ **[42 U.S.C. 1769h] ACCOMMODATION OF THE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED PROGRAM.**—The term “covered program” means—

(A) the school lunch program authorized under this Act;

(B) the school breakfast program authorized under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773); and

(C) any other program authorized under this Act or the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (except for section 17) that the Secretary determines is appropriate.

(2) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” means a school food authority, institution, or service institution that participates in a covered program.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary may carry out activities to help accommodate the special dietary needs of individuals with disabilities who are participating in a covered program. The activities may include—

(1) developing and disseminating to State agencies guidance and technical assistance materials;

(2) conducting training of State agencies and eligible entities; and

(3) providing grants to State agencies and eligible entities.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2003.

SEC. 28.²⁸⁻¹ **[42 U.S.C. 1769i] PROGRAM EVALUATION.**

(a) **PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of funds made available under paragraph (3), the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Food and Nutrition Service, may conduct annual national performance assessments of the meal programs under this Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

(2) **COMPONENTS.**—In conducting an assessment, the Secretary may assess—

(A) the cost of producing meals and meal supplements under the programs described in paragraph (1); and

²⁶⁻² Section 112 of P.L. 105-336, 112 Stat. 3157, Oct. 31, 1998, amended this sentence by striking “and \$100,000 for fiscal year 1998” and inserting “\$100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and \$166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2003”. Section 128 of P.L. 108-265, 118 Stat. 767, June 30, 2004, amended this subparagraph by striking “through 2003” and inserting “through 2004, and \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009” and making a conforming amendment.

²⁶⁻³ Section 103(c)(2) of P.L. 105-336, 112 Stat. 3147, Oct. 31, 1998, amended this sentence by inserting at the end before the period “, without further appropriation”.

²⁷⁻¹ Section 27 added by section 124 of P.L. 103-448, 108 Stat. 4732, Nov. 2, 1994, and amended by section 414(d) of P.L. 105-220, 112 Stat. 1242, Aug. 7, 1998. Section 113 of P.L. 105-336, 112 Stat. 3157, Oct. 31, 1998, amended this section in its entirety.

²⁸⁻¹ Section 28 added by section 129 of P.L. 108-265, 118 Stat. 767, June 30, 2004.